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SECTORAL POLICY QUESTIONS: BUSINESS AND DEVELOPMENT

Argentina, Bulgaria, Côte d'Ivoire, Mozambique, Russian Federation, Ukraine, United States of America and Uruguay: revised draft resolution

Business and development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 47/171 of 22 December 1992 entitled "Privatization in the context of economic restructuring, economic growth and sustainable development", 48/180 of 21 December 1993 entitled "Entrepreneurship and privatization for economic growth and sustainable development", 50/106 of 20 December 1995 entitled "Business and development", and 51/191 of 16 December 1996 entitled "United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions",

Welcoming the privatization process in many countries through, inter alia, demonopolization and administrative deregulation in the context of their economic restructuring policies, as a means to increase efficiency, economic growth and sustainable development, and stresses the importance of strengthening this process,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Entrepreneurship and privatization for economic growth and sustainable development";[1]

2. Recognizes that effective efforts at all levels to combat and avoid corruption and bribery in all countries are elements essential to an improved

[1] A/52/428.

international business environment, that such efforts enhance fairness and competitiveness in international commercial transactions and form a critical part of promoting transparent and accountable governance, economic and social development and environmental protection in all countries, and that those efforts are especially pressing in the increasingly competitive globalized international economy;

3. Stresses the important role of the private sector in sustainable development in supporting the interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development - economic development, social development and environmental protection;

4. Recognizes that business and industry, including transnational corporations, play a crucial role in the social and economic development of a country, that a stable policy regime enables and encourages business and industry to operate responsibly and efficiently and to implement longer-term policies and that increasing prosperity, a major goal of the development process, is contributed primarily by the activities of business and industry;

5. Recognizes the important role of Governments in creating, through transparent and participatory processes, an enabling environment supportive of entrepreneurship and facilitative of privatization and, in particular, in establishing the judicial, executive and legislative frameworks necessary for the market-based exchange of goods and services and for good management;

6. Reaffirms the importance of creating sound national macroeconomic policy in the promotion of entrepreneurship and privatization and stresses the need for a supportive international economic environment, including investment and trade, for the promotion of entrepreneurship and privatization in all countries;

7. Recognizes that Governments, business and industry, including transnational corporations, should strengthen partnerships to implement the principles and criteria for sustainable development;

8. Recognizes the growing role of the private sector in areas related to infrastructure, and that the measures needed to make private participation feasible - deregulating the economy, strengthening relevant legislation to provide legal protection, reducing administrative interference to promote free competition and providing institutional support to small and medium-sized enterprises - have the potential to strengthen incentives for better public sector performance as well;

9. Encourages the private sector to play a role in areas related to social development and environmental protection;

10. Recognizes that in many countries, particularly developing countries and countries with economies in transition, the informal sector accounts for a significant part of all economic activity and is a particularly important source of income for women, and that the progressive integration of the informal sector into the formal sector should be encouraged;

11. Stresses the importance of micro-credit to people living in poverty, allowing them to undertake micro-enterprises, which in turn generate self-employment and contribute to achieving empowerment, particularly of women, and calls for the strengthening of institutions supportive of micro-financing, including micro-credit;

12. Values the promotion of entrepreneurship, including through the informal sector and micro-enterprises, in the development of small and medium-sized enterprises and industries by various actors throughout civil society, and of privatization, demonopolization and the simplification of administrative procedures;

13. Recognizes the important role of cooperatives in the development and promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises;

14. Encourages the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to involve non-governmental actors in its activities in an advisory capacity and welcomes the Partners for Development Initiative of the Secretary-General and the meeting to be held at Lyon, France, in November 1998;

15. Calls upon the Secretary-General and the operational development agencies of the United Nations system to focus analytical work, in implementing the present resolution as well as General Assembly resolutions 48/180 and 50/106, on the role of the private sector including the informal sector in sustainable development;

16. Calls upon the United Nations funds and programmes to incorporate support for sustainable development from the private sector in programmes, country cooperation frameworks and development assistance frameworks, and to continue to strengthen their programme activities that are supportive of the promotion of entrepreneurship, while promoting an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in those programmes, country cooperation frameworks and development assistance frameworks;

17. Decides to include this issue in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at that session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.